expeditious and time bound action on the recommendations of the two Committees. Follow up action required on the recommendations of the Empowered Committee has been circulated in January, 1991 to all the concerned Central/State Agencies.

Also, in other flood prone States/Union Territories such as Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan and Delhi, Master plan for Flood Management have been prepared. The Flood Control works are required to be executed by the States as per the inter se priority fixed by them in the outline plans so prepared.

Prime Minister's visit to drought affected areas in Andhra Pradesh

1491. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister visited Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh to study drought conditions;

(b) if so, what are the details of relief extended to that state on that count; and

(c) whether Government are considering a plan to control recurring drought conditions in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Various Scheme for afforestation, Soil Conservation and increasing of irrigated areas etc. are already being implemented to contain the recurrence of drought.

Study of Soil

1492. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps for the study of the nature of the soil so as to help farmers cultivate crops suitable for a particular type of soil and thus improve the yield; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The State Agricultural Universities have generated improved techniques of crop production suited to the variable properties of different soils in the country. The National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning under I.C.A.R. is the Central Organisation for characterising the soil resources in the country for efficient land use planning. Soil maps of the States of Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Manipur, Meghalaya and Pondicherry have been prepared in 1:250000 scale. This Institute has also brought out a publication delineating the agro-ecological zones of the country.

Subsidised fertilizer for small and Marginal farmers

1493. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procedure for purchasing fertilizer at subsidised price by small and marginal farmers; and

(b) what is the amount earmarked for each State in this regard and the amount spent so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Guidelines have been issued on the 14th and 21st August, 1991 to the States/UTs by the Government of India, under which flexibility is available to the States/UTs to draw up their detailed procedures which would vary for different States/UTs.

(b) The amount earmarked for earch State/Union Territory during 1991-92, and the amount released as first instalment to them is given in the statement.